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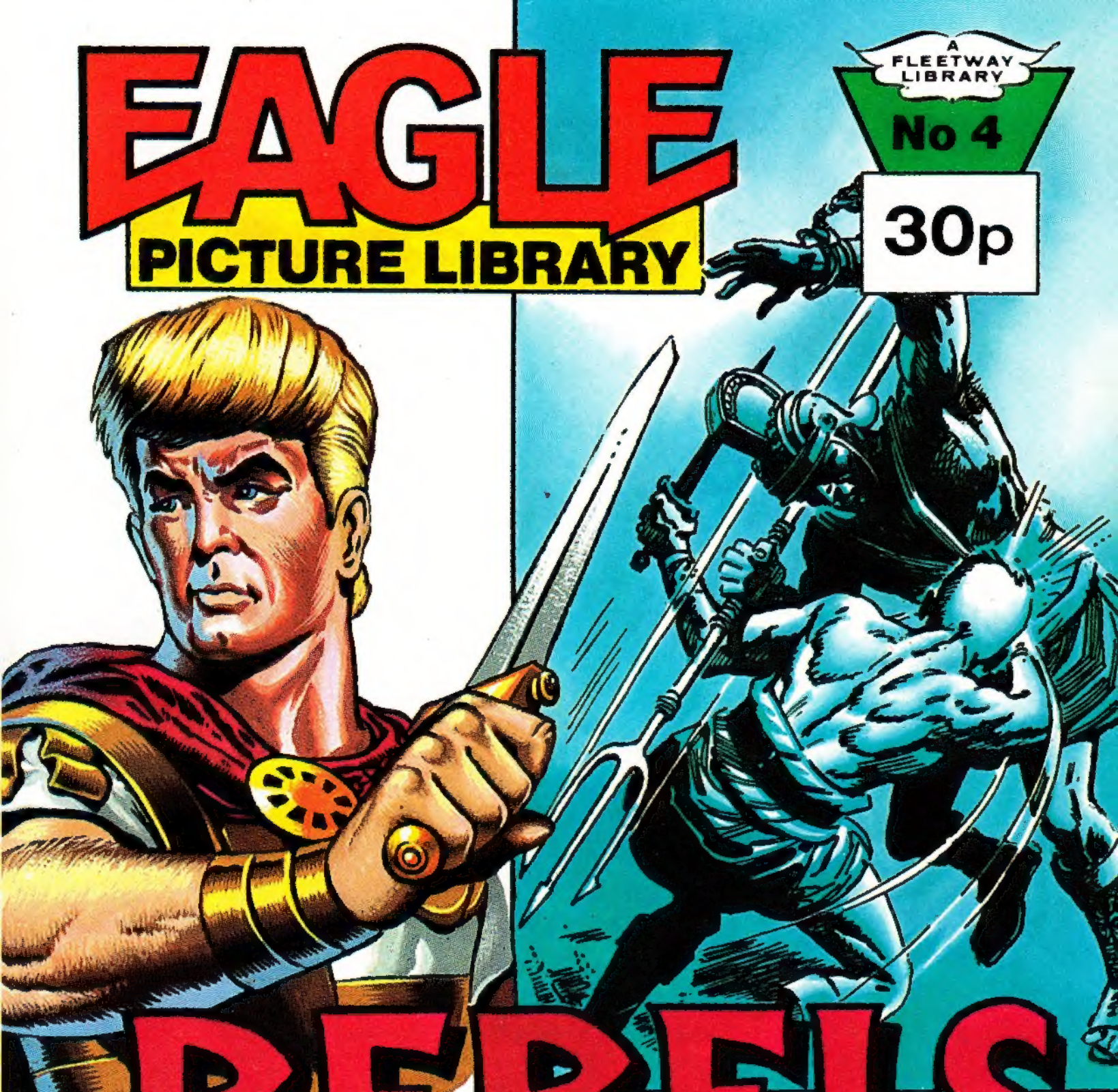

REBELS OF ROME

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO ENJOY IN THE NEW-LOOK...

IT'S NINE POWERFUL STORIES MAKE IT THE BEST COMIC READ FOR BOYS OF ALL AGES!

ON SALE EVERY MONDAY Price 24p

EAGLE and TIGER

24p

TWO GREAT PAPERS JOIN FORCES TO BRING YOU...

9 BIG STORIES!

ALL YOUR FAVOURITES!

DAN DARE · BILLY'S BOOTS
ROBO MACHINES · DOOMLORD
DEATH WISH · GOLDEN BOY
STAR RIDER · THIRTEENTH FLOOR
PLUS THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
PLUS SUPER FREEBIES AND FEATURES!

REBELS OF ROME

THE CLASH OF COMBAT ECHOED ABOUT THE GREAT COLISEUM ARENA AS PICKED FIGHTING MEN FOUGHT WITH BREATHTAKING SKILL AND FEROCITY...
LOOK AT LENTO! HE MOVES AS SWIFTLY AS A CAT!
BUT THAT BIDENT OF HIS IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANY MOUNTAIN CAT'S CLAWS

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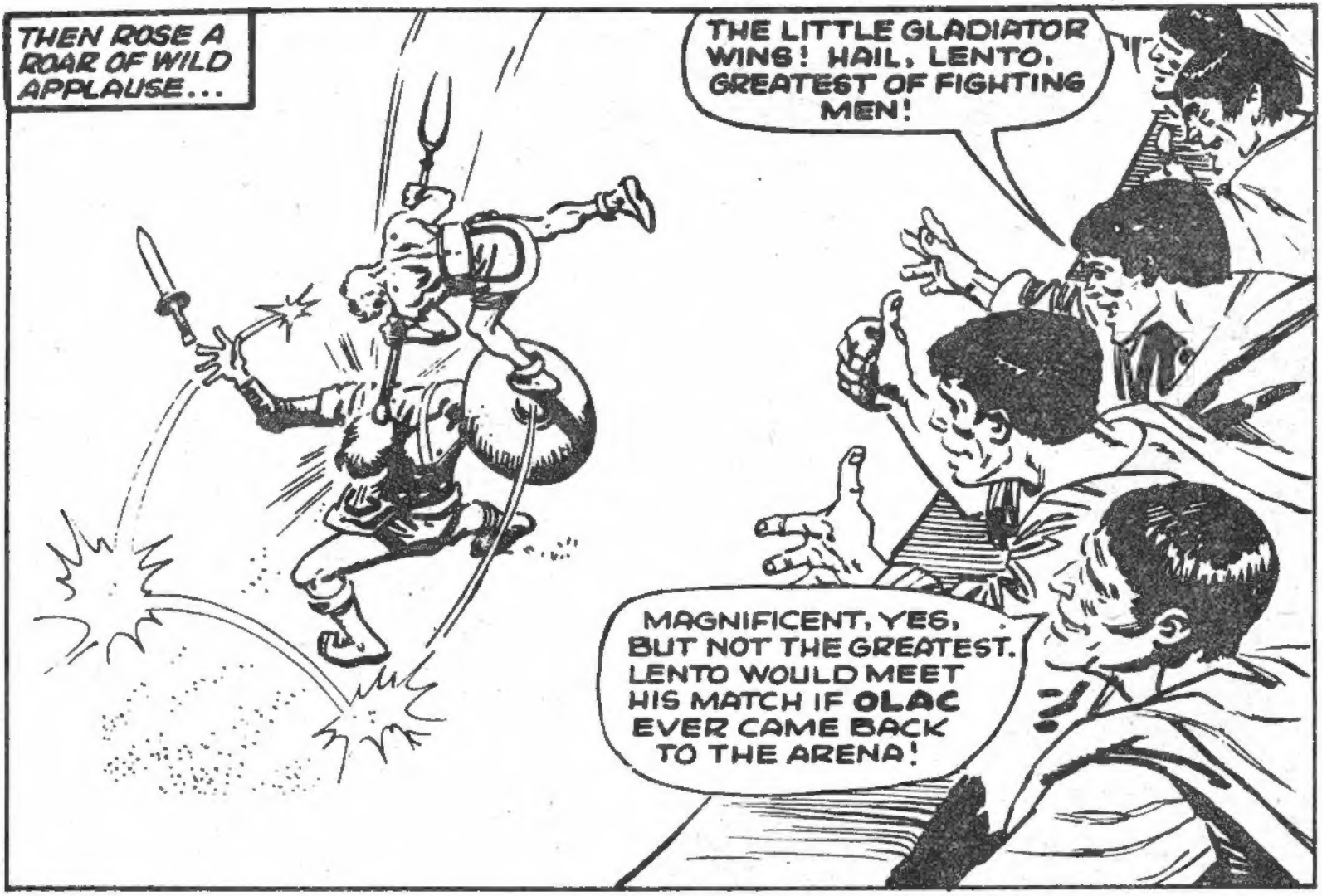
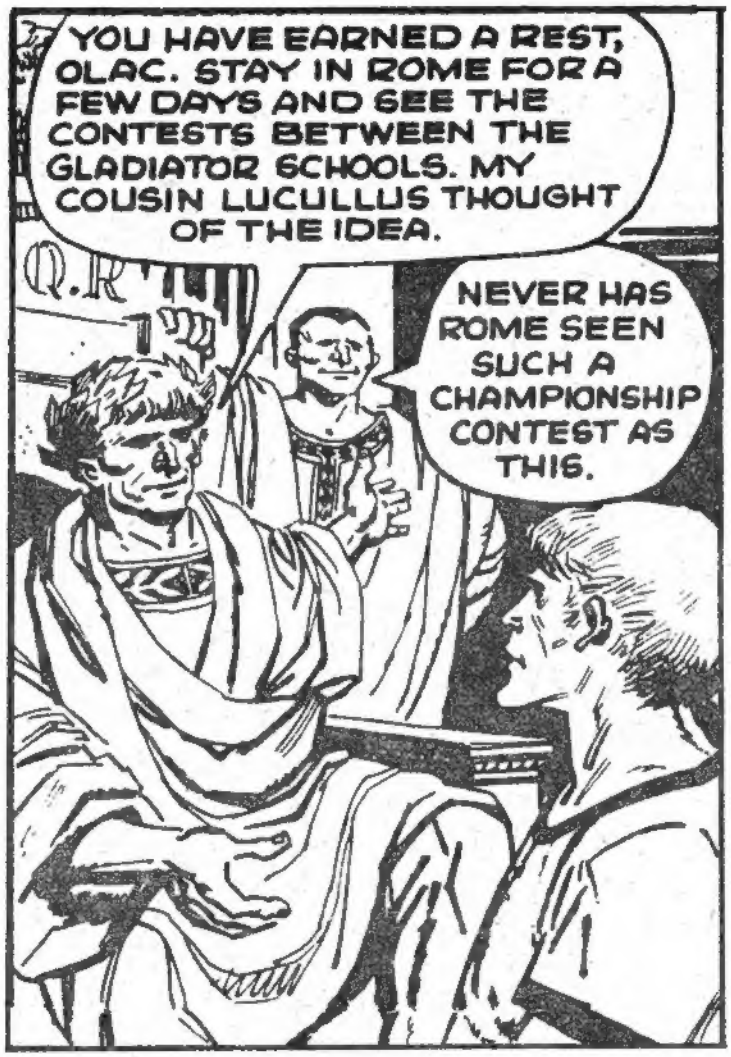
PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED


THEN ROSE A ROAR OF WILD APPLAUSE...
THE LITTLE GLADIATOR WINS! HAIL, LENTO, GREATEST OF FIGHTING MEN!
MAGNIFICENT, YES, BUT NOT THE GREATEST. LENTO WOULD MEET HIS MATCH IF OLAC EVER CAME BACK TO THE ARENA!

AT THAT MOMENT OLAC THE GLADIATOR WAS AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF ROME...
BY THE GODS, I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY EYES! 'T'IS OLAC!
BIXIUS!

OLAC GREETED HIS OLD GLADIATORIAL TRAINER...
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BIXIUS. BUT WHY ARE YOU AND YOUR SCHOOL OF FIGHTERS GOING TO ROME?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? CAESAR HAS ORDERED A SERIES OF CONTESTS TO DECIDE WHICH IS THE GREATEST GLADIATOR SCHOOL. EVERY DAY, MORE AND MORE GLADIATORS REACH HERE FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE EARTH.
AH, OLAC! IF ONLY YOU WERE STILL FIGHTING FOR YOUR OLD SCHOOL, THEN WE COULD BE SURE OF WINNING THE CONTEST.
I HAVE MORE URGENT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO. I HAVE JOURNEYED ALL THE WAY FROM SYRIA WITH GRAVE NEWS FOR CAESAR.
OLAC RODE ON... TO THE PALACE OF CAESAR.
THE BARBARIANS ATTACK CONSTANTLY, CAESAR. IF WE ARE TO HOLD OUR FRONTIER WE MUST HAVE MORE TROOPS IN SYRIA.
ALREADY MOST OF MY ARMY IS AWAY AT THE WARS, OLAC, AND THERE IS ONLY ONE LEGION LEFT HERE IN ROME. BUT IF MORE MEN ARE NEEDED IN THE EAST, THEN THIS LEGION MUST GO!


YOU HAVE EARNED A REST, OLAC. STAY IN ROME FOR A FEW DAYS AND SEE THE CONTESTS BETWEEN THE GLADIATOR SCHOOLS. MY COUSIN LUCULLUS THOUGHT OF THE IDEA.
NEVER HAS ROME SEEN SUCH A CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST AS THIS.

THE FOLLOWING DAY...
THERE GOES CAESAR'S LAST LEGION, LUCULLUS. YOUR PLAN TO TAKE OVER ROME IS WORKING BRILLIANTLY.
NOW ROME IS VIRTUALLY UNDEFENDED AND MY MERCENARY SOLDIERS, POSING AS GLADIATORS AND SPECTATORS, CONTINUE TO POUR INTO THE CITY. IN TWO DAYS I SHALL GIVE THE ORDER FOR THE UPRISING.

IT IS QUITE TOUCHING TO SEE HOW CAESAR TRUSTS YOU, LUCULLUS. IF ONLY HE KNEW THE REAL REASON FOR THIS GLADIATOR SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP.
MY COUSIN IS A KINDLY FOOL. AND BECAUSE OF IT HE WILL LOSE THE MIGHT OF ROME... TO ME!

A FEW HOURS LATER, OLAC WAS WALKING THE STREETS, WHEN...
SIX MEN AGAINST ONE! THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF ODDS I LIKE.

THUS FATE BROUGHT OLAC AND LENTO, THE SMALL GLADIATOR, TOGETHER...
IT SEEMS YOU CAN DO WITH SOME HELP!
ONLY TWO TO ONE NOW, FRIEND. IT IS NO LONGER MUCH FUN, EH?
UUHHH!
THREE MORE TO GO! WHY DID THESE RATS ATTACK YOU?
PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY WERE SCARED TO MEET ME IN THE ARENA. BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT NO ONE CAN BEAT LENTO!
THEN...
PAH! THEY RUN LIKE SHEEP! AND THEY CALL THEMSELVES GLADIATORS!
CURSE YOU, ROMAN!

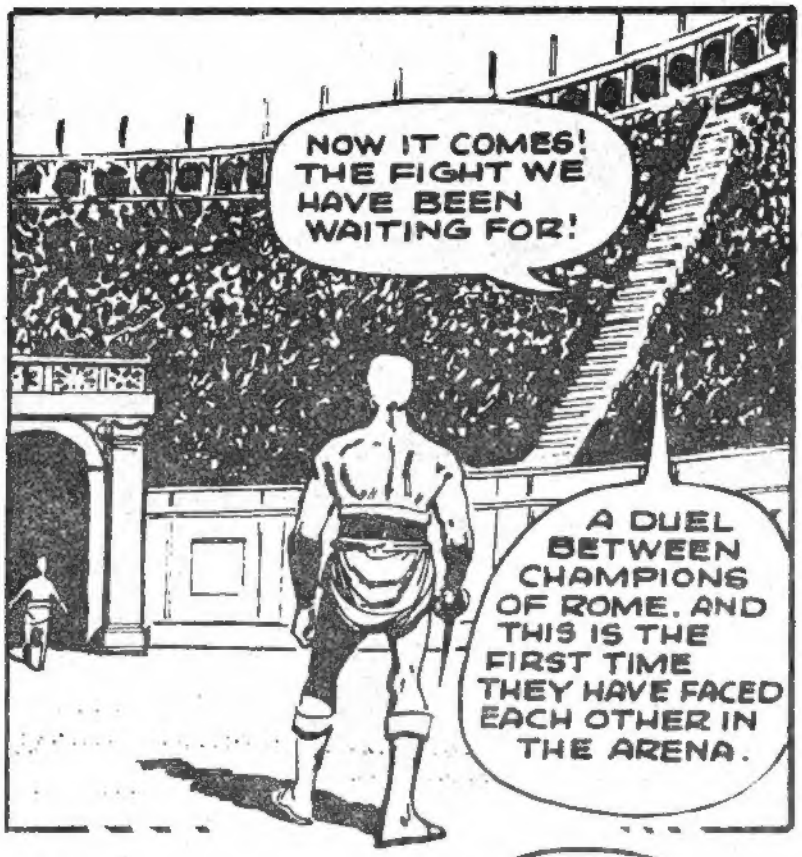
YOU...MAY HAVE...DEFEATED ME. BUT THERE ARE... THOUSANDS OF US...IN ROME NOW! ALL YOU PIGS OF ROMANS WILL DIE...INCLUDING YOUR PRECIOUS CAESAR. SOON...WE WILL STRIKE!
WHAT DOES HE MEAN?
YOU ARE A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, MY FRIEND. NOW IF YOU AND I WERE TO MEET IN THE ARENA...WHAT A FIGHT THAT WOULD BE!
DID HE MEAN AN UPRISING? I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE!
IT WAS LENTO'S WORDS THAT TOLD OLAC WHAT HE HAD TO DO...
VERY WELL, OLAC, I GIVE YOU MY PERMISSION TO FIGHT IN THE CONTESTS. YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR OLD GLADIATOR SCHOOL WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP, I SUPPOSE?
NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE MY REAL REASON. BUT THIS WAY I MIGHT GET PROOF OF WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

SEE HOW OLAC MAKES THESE FOREIGN GLADIATORS LOOK LIKE AMATEURS? HE STRIKES AS SWIFTLY AS A COBRA, AND WITH THE STRENGTH OF A LION!
GIVE THE SIGN OF SURRENDER! YOU CANNOT WIN NOW!

BUT OLAC WAS FORCED TO STRIKE AGAIN...

ROMAN PIG! I... AAAAGH!
WHY DID HE FIGHT ON? THIS IS NOT A DUEL TO THE DEATH!

THE HOURS PASSED, AND OLAC'S VICTORIES MOUNTED...
OLAC WINS AGAIN!
IT ALMOST SEEMS AS IF EACH ONE OF THE FOREIGN GLADIATORS HAS BEEN ORDERED TO KILL ME...OR BE KILLED!


NOW IT COMES! THE FIGHT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR!
A DUEL BETWEEN CHAMPIONS OF ROME. AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAVE FACED EACH OTHER IN THE ARENA.

GRINNING WIDELY, OLAC'S NEW OPPONENT STRUTTED TO THE CENTRE OF THE ARENA.
YESTERDAY WE FOUGHT TOGETHER AGAINST THOSE FOREIGN DOGS WHO TRIED TO AMBUSH ME. TODAY WE FIGHT EACH OTHER! LIFE IS VERY STRANGE, EH?
OLAC AGAINST LENTO! WHAT A CONTEST THIS WILL BE!

YOU REMIND ME MORE OF AN ACROBAT THAN A GLADIATOR, LENTO!
I AM AS MUCH ONE AS THE OTHER, OLAC. AS YOU SHALL SEE!

I RESPECT YOU MORE AND MORE, OLAC. THAT STROKE HAS NEVER FAILED BEFORE.
FOR THREE HOURS THEY'VE FOUGHT AND THE CONTEST IS STILL UNDECIDED. AND NOW IT IS GROWING DARK.

CAESAR HAS CALLED THIS CONTEST TO A HALT. NEITHER MAN WILL YIELD TO THE OTHER.
IT SEEMS WE ARE A PROBLEM, OLAC. WHAT IS TO BE DONE ABOUT YOU AND I, EH?

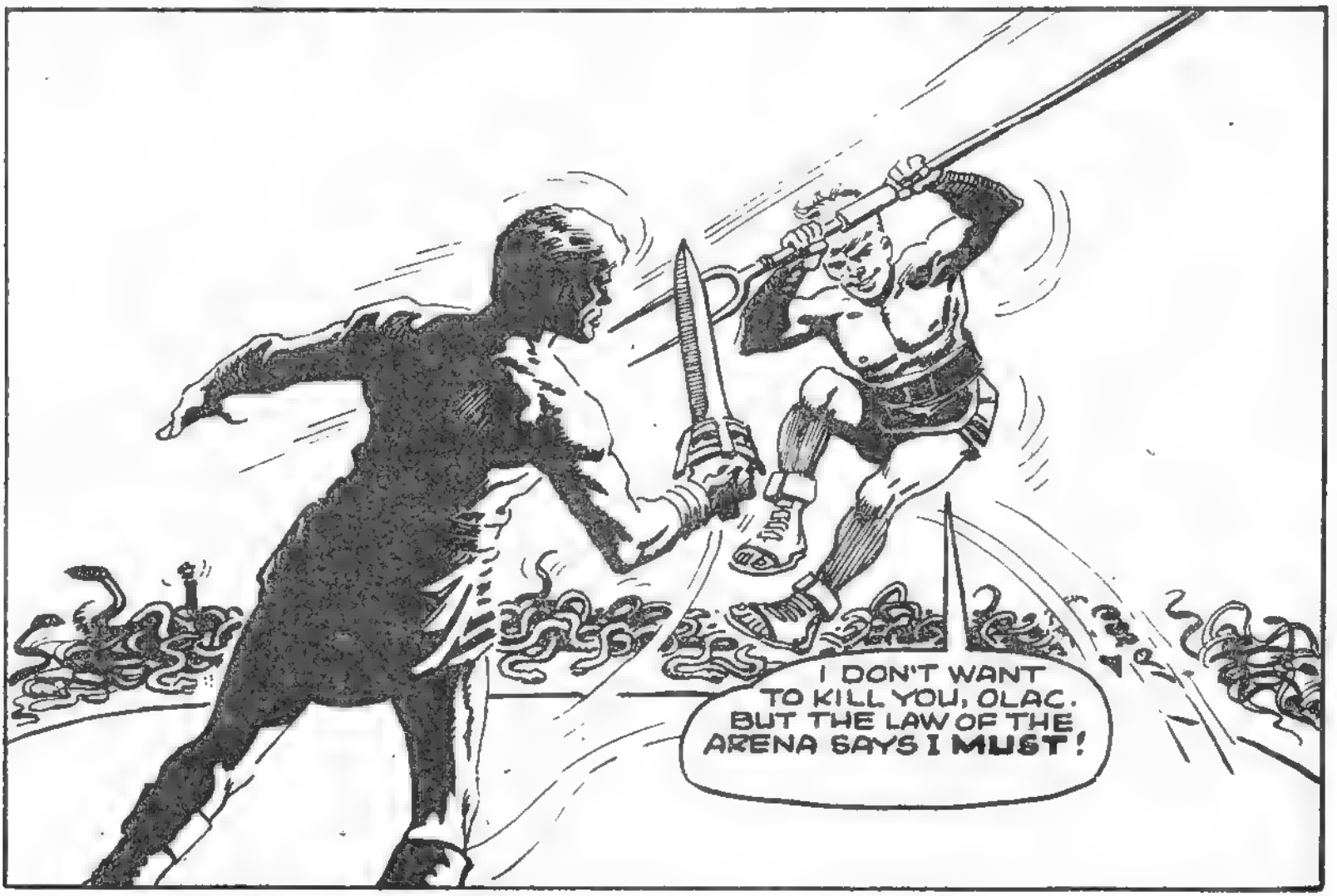
THE FACE OF THE PLOTTER LUCULLUS WAS DARK WITH ANGER...
WE ARE OUT OF LUCK, LUCULLUS. I WAS SURE ONE OF THOSE TWO WOULD BE DEAD BY NOW.
OLAC AND LENTO MUST DIE! ALREADY THEY HAVE COST ME THE LIVES OF MY BEST FIGHTING MEN. I MUST THINK OF SOMETHING...!

THAT NIGHT, THE TREACHEROUS LUCULLUS FACED HIS UNSUSPECTING COUSIN...
...BELIEVE ME, IT IS THE ONLY WAY, CAESAR. WHEN GLADIATORS SO EQUAL IN SKILL ARE PUT TOGETHER, THEN IT HAS TO BECOME A TEST...OF COURAGE!
PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT. BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE IT. WHAT YOU PROPOSE MEANS A DUEL TO THE DEATH!

LET ME PUT IT TO THEM, CAESAR. IF EITHER MAN REFUSES TO GO THROUGH WITH IT...THEN THE OTHER AUTOMATICALLY BECOMES THE VICTOR!
HOW CUNNING YOU ARE, LUCULLUS. YOU WELL KNOW THAT NEITHER OLAC NOR LENTO WILL REFUSE A TEST OF COURAGE.

THE NEXT DAY...
WHAT IS THIS, OLAC? DO YOU KNOW?
I THINK I HAVE GUESSED, LENTO. ONCE IN THE EAST I SAW SUCH A CONTEST. AND IT WAS NOT VERY PLEASANT.
POISONOUS SNAKES!
I WAS RIGHT. THEY WON'T VENTURE NEARER TO US BECAUSE THAT CIRCLE IS PAINTED WITH SOME MIXTURE THAT REPELS THEM. BUT IF ONE OF US SHOULD STEP OR FALL OUTSIDE THAT PAINTED RING...!

YOU WON'T BACK OUT OF THIS, OLAC, AND NOR WILL I. SO IT MEANS THAT ONE OF US MUST DIE!
THEY SAY THAT A GLADIATOR SHOULD NEVER MAKE A FRIEND OF ANOTHER GLADIATOR. NOW I KNOW WHY!


I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU, OLAC. BUT THE LAW OF THE ARENA SAYS I MUST!

OLAC IS FALLING... INTO THE SNAKES!

LENTO HAS WON. OLAC MUST SURELY DIE!
ALL LENTO HAS TO DO IS LET GO OF THE BIDENT... AND I WILL FALL!

THEN LENTO HEAVED...
NO, I DON'T FIGHT LIKE THIS, OLAC. LENTO DOES HIS OWN KILLING. HE DOES NOT LEAVE SUCH THINGS TO SNAKES!
DID YOU SEE THAT ? LENTO PULLED OLAC BACK FROM THE SNAKES!

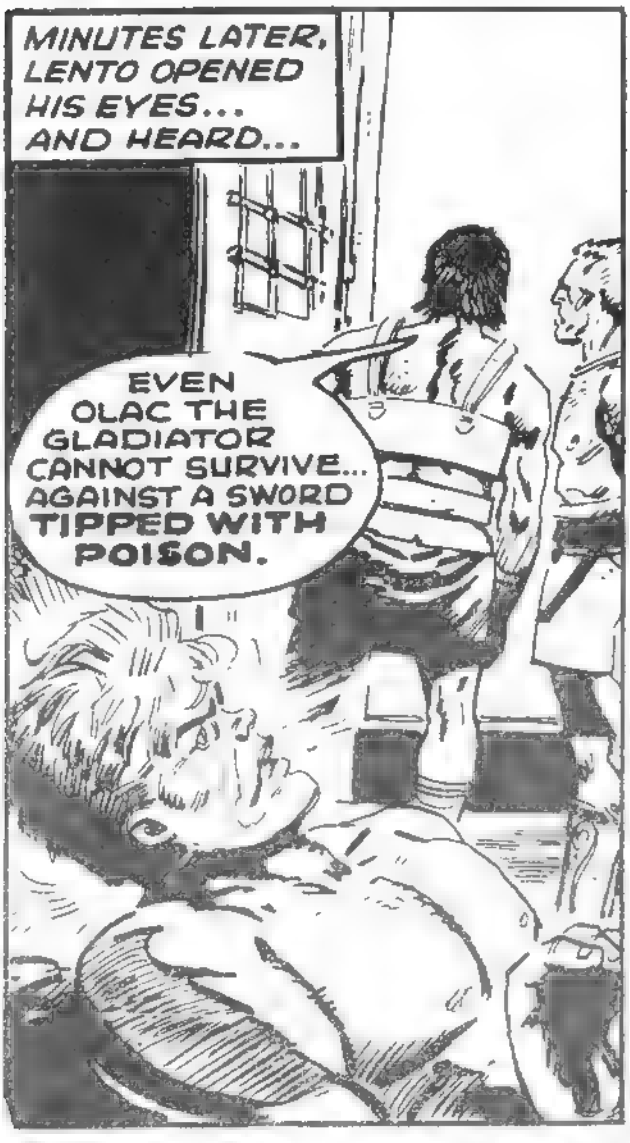
ONCE AGAIN THE BIDENT STABBED DOWN...
THIS LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER OF LENTO'S LITTLE ATHLETIC TRICKS. BUT HE WON'T CATCH ME A - SECOND TIME.

I'VE GOT THE MEASURE OF YOU NOW, LENTO.
UUUHHH!

LENTO FELL HEAVILY...
THIS EVENS US UP, LENTO.

THEN LET US FIGHT ON, OLAC. LIKE THIS!
FAST, BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH, LITTLE GLADIATOR!

LENTO'S HEAD STRUCK STUNNINGLY AGAINST THE SHIELD OF A SOLDIER...
UUUUHHHH!
OLAC WINS!
STILL UNCONSCIOUS, LENTO WAS CARRIED TO THE GLADIATOR ROOM...
HE FAILED TO SLAY OLAC. BUT I WILL DO BETTER!
AND THIS ONE WILL KILL NO MORE OF US IN THE ARENA. HE IS OUT OF THE CONTEST NOW!


MINUTES LATER, LENTO OPENED HIS EYES... AND HEARD...
EVEN OLAC THE GLADIATOR CANNOT SURVIVE... AGAINST A SWORD TIPPED WITH POISON.

A POISONED SWORD! I MUST WARN OLAC!
UUUUHHH!

BUT...
IT IS TOO LATE. THE FIGHTING HAS ALREADY BEGUN... AND NO ONE BUT CAESAR CAN STOP IT NOW!
STOP HIM, BEFORE HE TELLS OLAC OF THE POISONED SWORD!

CURSE HIM! HE'S MORE AGILE THAN A MONKEY!

I MAY HAVE LOST TO OLAC IN COMBAT, BUT I'M MORE THAN A MATCH FOR A DOZEN RATS LIKE YOU!
AAAAHHH!

YOUR TURN NEXT!
NO! NO! HAVE MERCY, LENTO! DON'T KILL ME!
THEN TALK, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE! WHY DO YOU PLOT THE DEATH OF MY GOOD FRIEND OLAC?
IT WAS LUCULLUS, OUR COMMANDER, WHO ORDERED IT. HE FEARS THAT OLAC HAS HEARD ABOUT HIS PLAN TO SEIZE ROME FROM CAESAR...
THE LEATHER BUTT OF LENTO'S BIDENT THUDDED STUNNINGLY...
THE UPRISING WILL BE WEAKENED UNLESS OLAC... UUUHHH!
SO THAT'S IT! YOU DOGS ARE NOT GLADIATORS AT ALL, BUT LUCULLUS'S MEN. BY THE GODS, I MUST MOVE FAST!

EVEN AS THE POISONED SWORD-TIP DARTED TOWARDS OLAC'S ARM...
AAAAHHH!
HAS LENTO LOST HIS MIND? HE'S BROKEN THE STRICTEST RULE OF THE GAMES!
THE VOICE OF LUCULLUS SCREAMED ABOVE THE ANGRY ROAR OF THE CROWD...
THE RULES OF THE ARENA SAY THAT NO MAN SHALL TAKE SIDES IN ANOTHER MAN'S COMBAT. THE PENALTY FOR BREAKING THIS RULE...IS DEATH!
SWIFTLY, LENTO TOLD OLAC WHAT HE HAD HEARD...
SO I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE UPRISING. AND LUCULLUS IS BEHIND IT!
HERE COME LUCULLUS'S MEN NOW, OLAC.
LENTO HAS BROKEN THE RULE! SLAY HIM!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SIDED WITH ME, OLAC. NOW YOU TOO FACE THE PENALTY OF DEATH!
THEY HAVEN'T KILLED US YET, LENTO. BUT THE ODDS AGAINST US ARE GETTING GREATER
LENTO'S BIDENT THUDDED INTO THE WOODEN ARENA WALL, AND...
OLAC, THIS WAY!
NOT EVEN CAESAR CAN SAVE US NOW, OLAC. WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!
IF WE CAN ONLY GET OUT INTO THE STREETS, WE CAN HIDE - AND PLAN WHAT TO DO!
HURRY, LENTO! I KNOW A FRIEND WHO WILL HIDE US!

BY NIGHTFALL THE TWO FUGITIVES HAD NOT BEEN FOUND...
VERY WELL, LUCULLUS. I GIVE YOU PERMISSION FOR A HOUSE TO HOUSE SEARCH OF THE ENTIRE CITY.
THE REBELLION IS TIMED FOR TWO DAYS FROM NOW. OLAC AND LENTO MUST BE FOUND— AND SILENCED!
IT DOESN'T PLEASE ME TO HIDE FROM SUCH DOGS, OLAC.
NOR ME. BUT THERE'S BIGGER ISSUES AT STAKE THAN OUR PRIDE, LENTO. HAVE PATIENCE, YOU'LL GET YOUR REVENGE.

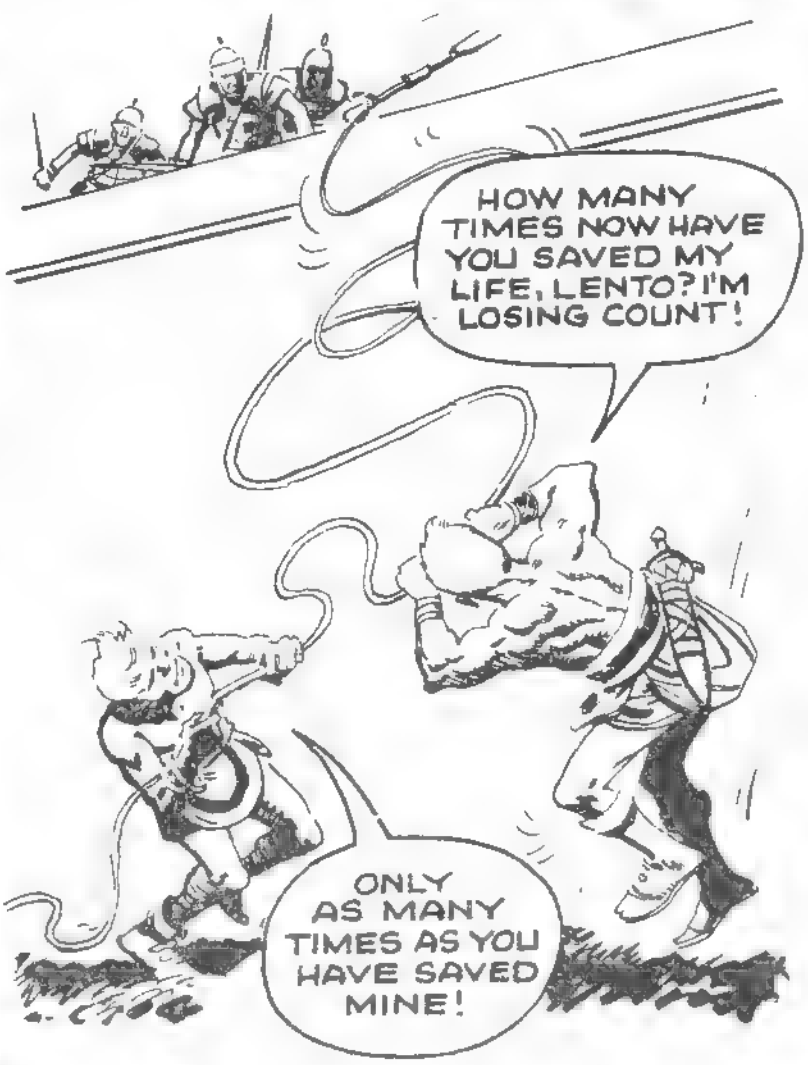
IN THE PALACE OF LUCULLUS...
WHAT DO WE DO, LUCULLUS? OLAC AND LENTO KNOW ABOUT THE UPRISING. BUT IT'S NOW MIDNIGHT AND THEY STILL HAVEN'T BEEN FOUND... AND SILENCED!
BUT SOON THEY MUST COME OUT INTO THE OPEN. TELL SOMEONE WHAT THEY KNOW...
AN HOUR LATER, CAESAR GASPED WITH ASTONISHMENT...
OLAC! YOU DARE TO COME HERE?
I HAVE TO SPEAK WITH YOU, CAESAR. FOR YOUR SAKE, AND THE SAKE OF ROME ITSELF!
OF COURSE! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE! THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN IN ROME THEY CAN TRUST TO LISTEN TO THEM. AND IF I'M RIGHT, WE HAVE THEM!

YOUR COUSIN, LUCULLUS, PLOTS TO OVERTHROW YOU. HE KNOWS THAT ALL YOUR LEGIONS ARE AWAY AT THE FRONTIERS, AND HAS SECRETED HIS ARMY INTO ROME BY DISGUISING THEM AS GLADIATORS!
LUCULLUS? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
THE DOOR TO CAESAR'S ROOM CRASHED OPEN...
YOU ARE RIGHT NOT TO BELIEVE SUCH LIES, NOBLE COUSIN. BUT NOW WE'LL SILENCE HIS LYING TONGUE, FOREVER!
WE HAVE HIM IN A TRAP, GOOD CAESAR. MY MEN OUTSIDE WILL HAVE HIM!
OLAC DUCKED A DEADLY THRUST AND STRUCK BACK...
AAAAHH!
CUT HIM DOWN!

IT'S TOO HIGH TO JUMP TO SAFETY, OLAC. THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR YOU NOW!

THEN...
UUUHHHH!

LENTO HAULED BACK ON THE END OF A LONG ROPE...
JUMP, OLAC. THE ROPE WILL BREAK YOUR FALL!


HOW MANY TIMES NOW HAVE YOU SAVED MY LIFE, LENTO? I'M LOSING COUNT!
ONLY AS MANY TIMES AS YOU HAVE SAVED MINE!

BUT IF I HADN'T STUMBLED ON THAT COIL OF ROPE, OLAC THE GLADIATOR WOULD HAVE FOUGHT HIS LAST FIGHT BY NOW, EH?
GET DOWN THERE! STOP THEM!

THEN IT HAPPENED...
AAAAHHH!

AS OLAC TURNED TO RUN BACK...
NO, OLAC, DON'T STOP! WHILE YOU LIVE, ROME CAN STILL BE SAVED! KEEP RUNNING!

STOP HIM, YOU FOOLS!
IF I WERE TO THROW MY LIFE AWAY USELESSLY, THERE WOULD BE NO ONE LEFT ALIVE IN ROME WHO KNOWS ABOUT THE UPRISING!

LUCULLUS RAGED AS OLAC LEAPED THE PALACE WALL...
GET AFTER HIM! HE MUST BE FOUND AND SILENCED!
THIS DOG WON'T LIVE TO BLAB ABOUT THE UPRISING!
WAIT! NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO KILL HIM! TAKE HIM TO MY VILLA!
OLAC WATCHED FROM THE SHADOWS...
DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH THE DOG. IF THERE IS ANY ATTEMPT TO RESCUE HIM... KILL HIM! IF WE CAN'T GET HIM TO THE VILLA OF LUCULLUS ALIVE... THEN WE GET HIM THERE DEAD
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP LENTO. NOT YET!
INSIDE LUCULLUS'S VILLA...
SPEAK, DOG. WHERE WILL WE FIND OLAC? YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING OF HIS PLANS.
EVEN IF I KNEW, I WOULD NOT TELL YOU,.. TRAITOR!

A RED-HOT SPEAR MENACED THE YOUNG GLADIATOR.
WHY DEFEND HIM, YOU FOOL? OLAC LEFT YOU BEHIND, DIDN'T HE? HE'S LOOKING AFTER HIS OWN SKIN NOW. WHERE IS HE?
AT THAT MOMENT, NOT FAR AWAY...
SEARCH EVERY HOUSE. OLAC THE GLADIATOR MUST BE FOUND!
YOU'VE FOUND HIM, FRIEND!
UUUHHHH!
LUCULLUS'S VILLA IS AT THE END OF THIS STREET. I JUST HOPE THAT LENTO IS STILL ALIVE!

THE LITTLE GLADIATOR WAS STILL ALIVE... AND STILL FIGHTING...
YOUR HOT COALS DON'T FRIGHTEN ME, RATS. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU!
AAAAHHH!
WE'LL GET NO INFORMATION OUT OF THIS FOOL! KILL HIM!
WAIT, NOBLE LUCULLUS! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE THE VILLA!

OLAC HAD ARRIVED!
URGH!

OLAC!

I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME. WHY DID YOU RETURN?
YOU FORGET, LENTO. IT WAS MY TURN TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!

BESIDES, I NEED YOUR HELP, LENTO. I KNOW WHERE THERE'S A WHOLE ARMY OF LOYAL ROMANS TO FIGHT THE UPRISING... IF ONLY WE CAN GET TO THEM!

INTO THE STREET! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!
WE CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER THIS WAY, LENTO. THE STREET'S BLOCKED WITH CAVALRY.
AND WE CAN'T GO BACK EITHER!

THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO GO...
OVER THERE! I CAN JUST SEE THE HORSE IN THE SHADOWS!

THE RIDERLESS HORSE TURNED INTO A SIDE-STREET...
THERE THEY GO! AFTER THEM!
LISTEN, LENTO! VOICES FROM THE FLOOR BELOW US!

MORE OF LUCULLUS'S MEN!
CAREFUL! THOSE POINTS ARE AS SHARP AS NEEDLES! WAIT FOR THE UPRISING BEFORE YOU KILL SOMEONE WITH IT!
THEN LENTO PALED WITH ANGER...
STAND BACK! I NEED PRACTICE IF I'M TO BE AS EXPERT WITH THIS AS THAT LITTLE GLADIATOR!
MY BIDENT!
BEFORE OLAC COULD STOP HIM...
NO ONE USES THAT BIDENT BUT LENTO!
YOU LITTLE HOT-HEAD! NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO USE THE BIDENT... LIKE THIS!
LENTO WOULD RATHER DIE THAN LOSE THAT BIDENT! BUT I JUST CAN'T WATCH HIM DIE ALONE!

BAR THE DOOR!
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM, OLAC. EVEN I ADMIT WE CAN'T WIN!
THEN THE KEEN-EDGED SWORD WHIRLED FROM OLAC'S HAND...
LOOK OUT!
INSTANTLY, THE TINDER-DRY STRAW FLARED...
GET OUT OF HERE OR WE'LL BE BURNED ALIVE!
COME ON, YOU FIGHTING BANTAM! THIS IS OUR CHANCE!
THEY WERE SO BUSY LOOKING AFTER THEIR OWN SKINS, THEY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE US!
HURRY, LENTO! WE NEED HELP TO STOP THE UPRISING. AND I KNOW WHERE TO FIND IT!

AN HOUR LATER THEY FACED OLAC'S OLD GLADIATORIAL TRAINER...
BIXIUS, I KNOW THAT YOU AND YOUR MEN ARE LOYAL TO CAESAR. YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT THESE TRAITORS!
OLAC, MY GLADIATORS ARE THE FINEST WARRIORS IN THE EMPIRE. BUT WHAT GOOD WILL EVEN THEY BE... AGAINST A WHOLE ARMY?
NEXT MOMENT...
BIXIUS! LUCULLUS'S MEN ARE COMING!
WAS IT ALREADY TOO LATE?
OLAC'S OLD GLADIATORIAL TRAINER HURRIED THE TWO FUGITIVES TO A WAGON...
HURRY, OLAC! YOU AND YOUR FRIEND CLIMB INTO THIS WAGON!
LUCULLUS'S MEN ARE APPROACHING, BIXIUS!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
THE TRAITORS OLAC AND LENTO HAVE ESCAPED JUSTICE. LUCULLUS THINKS THEY MAY HAVE FLED HERE!
HERE? BUT MY GLADIATORS AND I ARE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF CAESAR. WHY WOULD ANY TRAITOR COME HERE?
THEN IF YOU ARE SO LOYAL, YOU WON'T TRY TO STOP US SEARCHING THE CAMP!
LOOK EVERYWHERE!
SUDDENLY THE OFFICER'S HORSE SHIED...
KEEP THAT TORCH AWAY FROM MY HORSE, FOOL!

THEN...
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE NOW! TAKE YOUR MEN OUT OF MY CAMP BEFORE YOU DO MORE DAMAGE!

AS OLAC AND LENTO RAN, BIXIUS TRIED TO HOLD THE OFFICER'S ATTENTION..
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE. RUN FOR IT!
I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ANY TRAITORS. GO NOW, UNLESS YOU WANT MY GLADIATORS TO THROW YOU OUT!

BUT...
THERE THEY ARE!

THE SOLDIER'S JAVELIN SPED TOWARDS OLAC BUT LENTO'S BIDENT DEFLECTED IT AWAY FROM HIS FRIEND...WITH DEADLY EFFECT...
AAAAHHHH!
AFTER THE TRAITORS!

BIXIUS YELLED A COMMAND...
WE'RE IN TROUBLE ENOUGH NOW. SO WE MAY AS WELL GO ALL THE WAY! GET AT THE SOLDIERS, LADS!
WE OBEY, TRAINER BIXIUS! AND GLADLY!
UUUUHHHH!

YOUR HELP'S NOT NEEDED, LENTO. THESE GLADIATORS HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY THE GREAT BIXIUS!
YES, MY LADS WILL SETTLE FOR THESE DOGS. BUT WHAT OF THE THOUSANDS LIKE THEM IN ROME? THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME!

WITHIN MINUTES ONLY ONE OF LUCULLUS'S MEN STILL LIVED...
HE'S GETTING AWAY! I'LL GO AFTER HIM!
HE'S GOT TOO GREAT A START! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH HIM NOW!

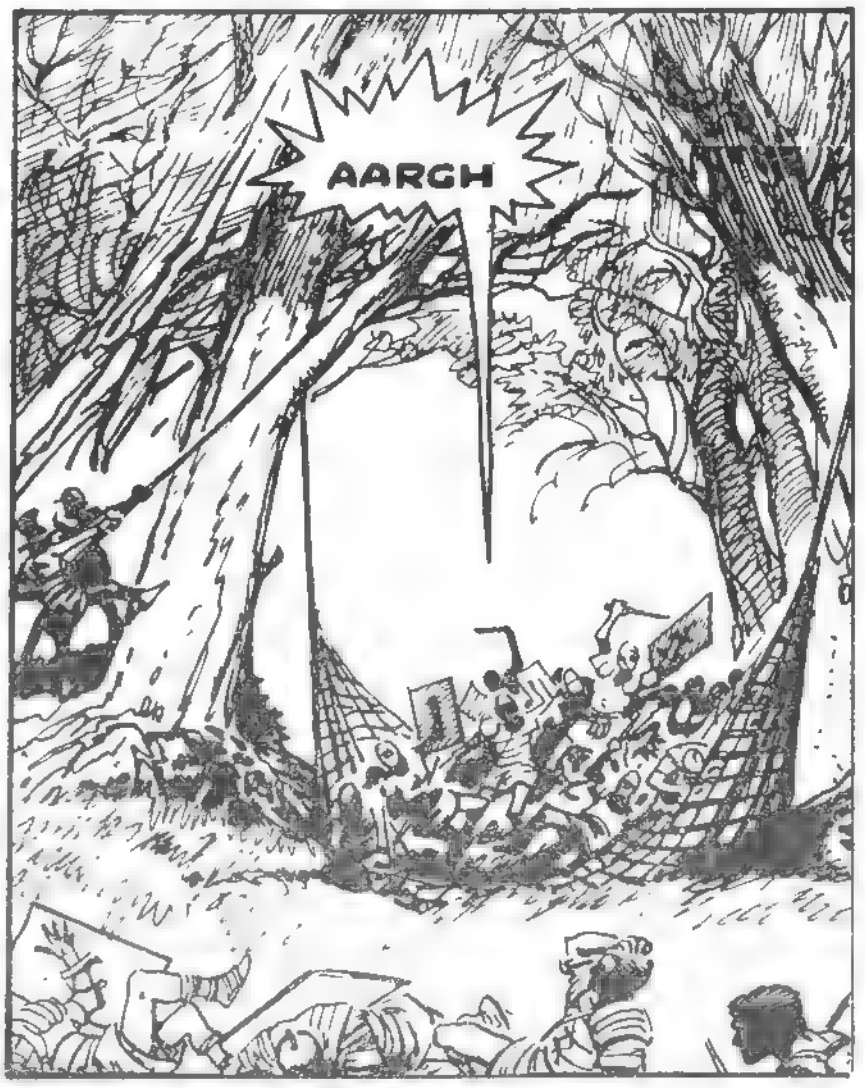
WHEN HE REACHES ROME AND TELLS WHAT HAPPENED, WE'LL ALL BE OUTLAWED!
THEY'LL SEND AN ARMY AGAINST US NEXT TIME, BIXIUS. OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO MAKE FOR THE HILLS!

MY PLAN WAS FOR YOU, BIXIUS, TO VISIT THE CAMPS OF OTHER LOYAL TRAINERS... AND RAISE AN ARMY OF GLADIATORS TO FIGHT THE UPRISING.
NO CHANCE OF THAT NOW, OLAC. WE'LL BE HUNTED LIKE WILD ANIMALS!
AND BIXIUS WAS RIGHT, FOR LATER THAT DAY...
I SAW THE FLASH OF THE SUN ON STEEL, SIR!
IF IT'S THEM, I CAN EITHER SURROUND THE HILL AND WAIT FOR REINFORCEMENTS, OR ATTACK NOW! WHICH SHALL IT BE?
THE FLASH OF SUN AGAINST SWORD-STEEL GAVE AWAY THE OUTLAWS' POSITION...
WHY SHOULD I WAIT FOR REINFORCEMENTS AND LET OTHERS GET CREDIT FOR CAPTURING THOSE DOGS? WE WILL ATTACK NOW!

ON THE WOODED HILL, OLAC SMILED...
YOU CAN STOP FLASHING THAT SWORD IN THE SUN, LENTO. THEY'VE TAKEN THE BAIT!
ALL THE MEN ARE IN POSITION, OLAC!

TENSELY, OLAC WAITED... AND THEN...
AT THEM! SLAY EVERY ONE OF THE DOGS!
THERE'S ONLY A HANDFUL OF THEM— AND THE FOOLS ARE GOING TO STAND AND FIGHT!

AS THEY RUSHED ACROSS THE GLADE...
NOW!


AARGH

LOOK AT THE POOR FISH! THIS IS WORTH THE HOURS WE PUT INTO MAKING GRASS ROPES FOR THESE NETS!
IT...IT WAS A TRAP!

THE TERRIFIED OFFICER CRINGED AWAY FROM OLAC'S SWORD...
SURRENDER AND WE'LL SPARE YOUR MISERABLE LIVES! ORDER YOUR MEN TO THROW DOWN THEIR ARMS
I...I'LL DO IT! DON'T KILL ME!

AN HOUR LATER...
I CAN HARDLY BREATHE, OLAC!
BIXIUS, I MUST ADMIT THAT YOU AND LENTO DON'T LOOK VERY CONVINCING. THE OTHERS WILL HAVE TO HIDE YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

THEY MARCHED DOWN FROM THE HILLS TOWARDS MORE OF LUCULLUS'S MEN...
WHEN YOU ANSWER THEM, REMEMBER MY LITTLE FRIEND BEHIND YOU. HE HAS A SHARP ANSWER READY FOR ANY TRICKS. VERY SHARP!

ONE LOOK AT LENTO'S DEADLY [illegible] ENOUGH...
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE REST OF YOUR MEN?
I...I SPLIT MY FORCE INTO TWO! THE OTHER PARTY IS...ER... SOMEWHERE ELSE!

AT LAST...
THAT'S THE CAMP OF PAULUS THE GLADIATOR TRAINER. HE'S A TOUGH AND DIFFICULT MAN, BUT HE IS LOYAL TO CAESAR!
THE ROAD BETWEEN IS SWARMING WITH LUCULLUS'S MEN.

FOR THE MOMENT ALL EYES HAD BEEN ON THE CAMP OF PAULUS... AND IN THAT MOMENT THE PRISONER SEIZED HIS CHANCE...

THE LITTLE GLADIATOR POLE-VAULTED INTO ACTION...
MY BIDENT WOULD HAVE STOPPED HIM. BUT WE STILL NEED HIM ALIVE!
THE OUTLAWS — UP HERE!
LUCULLUS'S MEN DON'T SEEM TO HAVE HEARD HIM!
UUUUUHHHH!
BUT OTHER EARS HAD HEARD THE CAPTIVE'S CRIES...
HE HIT HIS HEAD AGAINST A ROCK. IT MAY BE HOURS BEFORE HE'S CONSCIOUS AGAIN!
TIME'S AGAINST US, OLAC. WE CAN'T USE HIM TO GET US THROUGH THOSE SOLDIERS. WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
BUT SOMEONE HAD ALREADY PENETRATED THEIR DISGUISES...
THEY'RE THE OUTLAWED GLADIATORS! LUCULLUS HAS OFFERED A HUGE REWARD FOR HE WHO AIDS THEIR CAPTURE!

BUT IN HIS GREEDY EXCITEMENT HE FAILED TO SEE AN EXPOSED ROOT...
OLAC, HE MUST HAVE OVERHEARD US!
I'LL BE RICH! I'LL... UUUUHHH!
DESPERATELY, THE MAN LEAPED TO HIS FEET... ONLY TO BE TRIPPED AGAIN...
WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT LENTO AND HIS BIDENT? BRING HIM BACK HERE!
MERCY! A MISERABLE WRETCH, SUCH AS I, AM NOT EVEN WORTH THE BOTHER OF KILLING! DON'T SLAY ME!
HE'S RIGHT, BIXIUS! NOR IS HE EVEN WORTH THE BOTHER OF A SECOND GLANCE. LUCULLUS'S MEN WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE HIM CROSSING THAT ROAD!

THE BEGGAR'S RAGS WERE QUICKLY REMOVED. THEN...
ONE OF MY MEN SHOULD GO INSTEAD OF YOU, OLAC. YOUR FACE IS TOO WELL-KNOWN.
NO, IT HAS TO BE SOMEONE THAT PAULUS KNOWS, BIXIUS. THIS DIRT WILL DISGUISE MY FEATURES...
BUT ON THE ROAD...
WHAT THE... UUUUHHHH!
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU GRUBBY WRETCH. YOU'RE ENOUGH TO PUT A MAN OFF HIS FOOD!
A SECOND SOLDIER ROARED WITH FURY..
YOU ROMAN TRASH! IF IT WERE NOT FOR OUR ORDERS TO SLAY NO ONE BEFORE THE UPRISING, I'D...
FOOL!

IDIOT, YOU WERE TOLD NO ONE MUST EVEN HEAR THE WORD UPRISING! MAKE SURE THIS RAG-BAG DOES NOT REPEAT IT! KILL HIM!
NO USE HIDING ANY LONGER BEHIND THESE RAGS!

NEXT INSTANT THE COWARDLY BEGGAR BECAME A DANGEROUS FIGHTING MAN...
OOOOOFFF!
I'M TAKING YOUR SWORD, DOG! AND THAT'S PAYMENT FOR IT!

THE SWORD SLASHED WITH LIGHTNING SKILL...
AAAAAHHH!
THAT'S NO BEGGAR, FOOLS! IT... IT'S OLAC THE GLADIATOR!

A SECOND STROKE SLICED THE SADDLE-GIRTH...
AARGH!
THEN OLAC LEAPED AGAIN...
SO NEAR TO THE CAMP OF PAULUS! BUT I NEED A HORSE TO MAKE THE REST OF THE DISTANCE!
BUT A JAVELIN GLITTERED IN THE HAND OF PAULUS, LOYAL SUBJECT OF CAESAR...
STOP HIM! HE'S AN ENEMY OF ROME!
ANY MAN WHO IS AN ENEMY OF ROME, IS AN ENEMY OF GOOD CAESAR— AND DESERVES TO DIE... AS WILL THIS DOG!

ONLY LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES SAVED OLAC FROM THE JAVELIN OF THE LOYAL PAULUS...
YOU HEARD THOSE SOLDIERS. THEY SAID THIS IS AN ENEMY OF THE MOST NOBLE CAESAR! SLAY THE DOG!
HE DOES NOT REALISE THESE SOLDIERS ARE NOT CAESAR'S MEN! THAT THEY ARE ENEMIES OF ROME!
THEN PAULUS SAW AN OLD AND TRUSTED FRIEND...
NO, PAULUS! HE FIGHTS FOR CAESAR!..NOT AGAINST HIM!
IF YOU SAY SO, BIXIUS, THEN IT IS SO! BY THE GODS, THEY HAVE A FIGHT ON THEIR HANDS NOW!
THE BATTLE BEGAN...
HOW DID YOU GET ACROSS THE ROAD, BIXIUS?
THEIR EYES WERE ON YOU, OLAC! I RAN, FAST AS I COULD... I MUST HAVE LOST A STONE IN WEIGHT!

THE BATTLE ENDED WHEN LENTO AND THE LOYAL GLADIATORS OF BIXIUS ATTACKED FROM THE REAR...
I SURRENDER! MERCY!

WE ARE ONLY GLADIATORS, OLAC, BUT YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN TRAINED AS A SOLDIER. YOU LEAD AND WE WILL FOLLOW!
FIRST WE MUST SEND RIDERS TO THE OTHER GLADIATOR CAMPS. WE HAVE ONLY THE BEGINNINGS OF AN ARMY HERE!

NOT ONE GLADIATOR SCHOOL REFUSED THE SUMMONS TO WAR...
WE FIGHT FOR ROME! FOR CAESAR!
THAT IS ENOUGH! WE SHALL JOIN YOU!

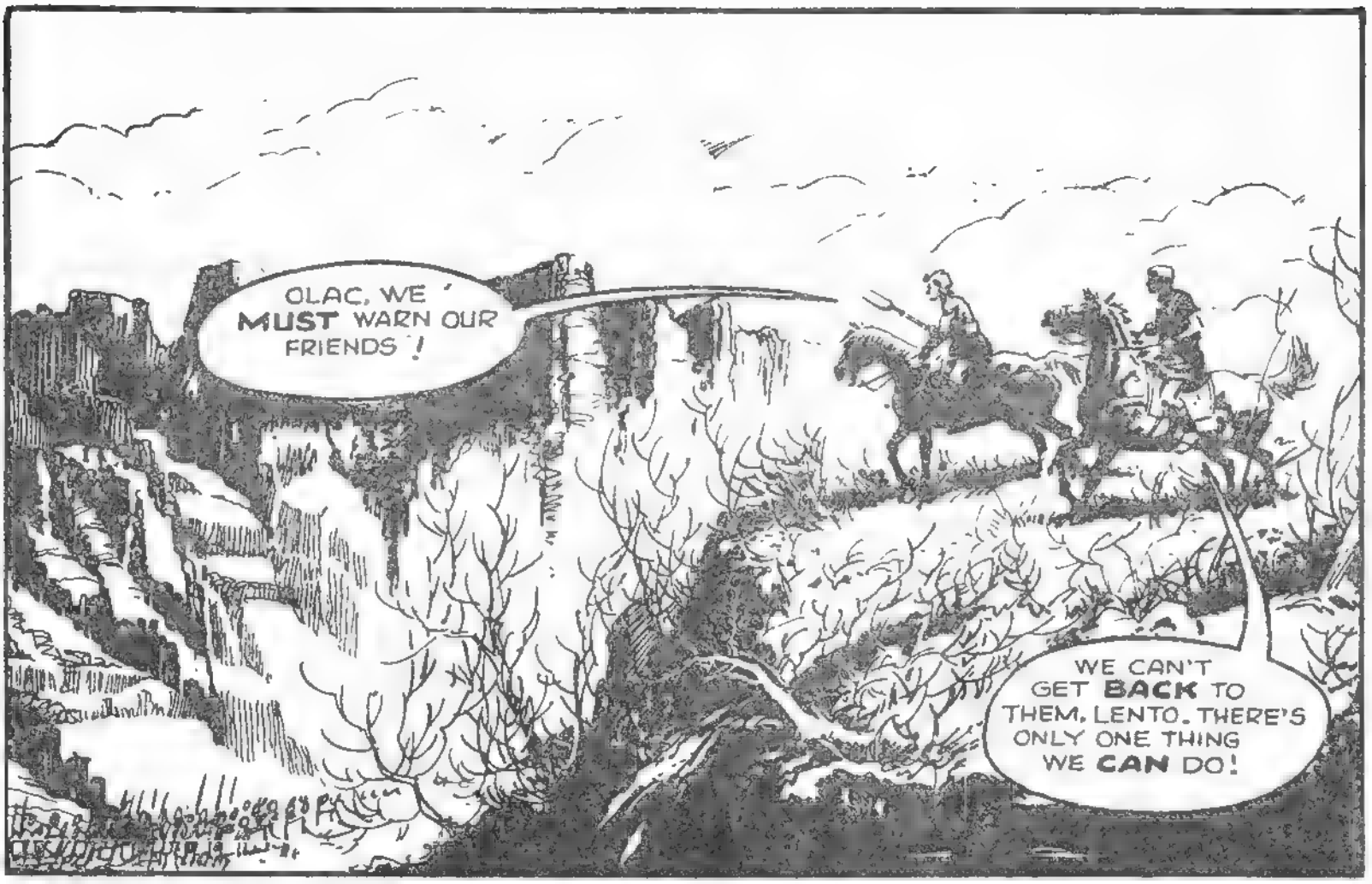
WE MARCH AGAINST LUCULLUS!
TELL OLAC WE ARE WITH HIM!
SOON THE VALLEY CHOSEN AS A RALLYING POINT ECHOED TO THE CLINK OF ARMS...
SEE, OLAC, HERE COMES CERVUS AND HIS FIGHTING MEN! THERE IS THE SCHOOL OF MAXIMUS! THERE IS SCIPIO! AND STILL MORE ARRIVE!
AN ARMY OF GLADIATORS! PERHAPS THE ROUGHEST AS WELL AS THE TOUGHEST MEN IN ALL THE EMPIRE! YET ALL WILLING TO DIE FOR CAESAR!
BUT ONE MAN CAME WHO HAD ALREADY FOUGHT HIS FIGHT...
OLAC, I RODE... FROM ROME! THE UPRISING... HAS BEGUN! CAESAR IS BESIEGED IN HIS PALACE...!
HOW DID HE STAY IN THE SADDLE WITH SUCH WOUNDS?

PAULUS, YOU MUST LEAD THE ARMY TO ROME, IMMEDIATELY! I WILL RIDE AHEAD TO SEE IF I CAN SAVE CAESAR. ONE MAN CAN MOVE MORE SWIFTLY THAN AN ARMY.
TWO MEN, OLAC. I GO WITH YOU!

FOR A MOMENT, OLAC AND LENTO PAUSED TO LOOK BACK...
THE FINEST GLADIATORS IN THE WORLD, LENTO. BUT ARE THERE ENOUGH OF THEM TO STAND AGAINST THE MASSIVE ARMY OF LUCULLUS?
I KNOW ONLY THAT THEY WILL FIGHT UNTIL THEY DROP, OLAC. BUT IF WE ARE TO SAVE CAESAR WE MUST HURRY! EVERY SECOND COUNTS.

BUT A MILE FURTHER ON...
HURRY! I CAN SEE THE DUST RAISED BY THE GLADIATORS! THE AMBUSH MUST BE READY FOR THEM WHEN THEY GET HERE!

OLAC, OUR FRIENDS WILL BE SLAUGHTERED LIKE CATTLE IN THAT TRAP. WE MUST RIDE BACK AND WARN THEM!
TOO LATE, LENTO! WE CAN'T GET BACK TO THEM! LOOK!


OLAC, WE MUST WARN OUR FRIENDS!
WE CAN'T GET BACK TO THEM, LENTO. THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO!

OLAC TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE SUN-DRIED BRACKEN ABOUT THEM...
GET SOME ROCKS, LENTO. BEAT THEM TOGETHER NEAR SOME GRASS... AND PRAY THE SPARKS WILL DO THE REST!
I, TOO, HAVE SEEN THE GAULS LIGHT FIRES THIS WAY.

LUCKILY, WITHIN MINUTES...
LOOK! A BRUSH FIRE! AND IT'S SWEEPING TOWARDS US!
WE'VE DONE IT, OLAC! AND THE WIND IS BLOWING IN JUST THE RIGHT WAY!
LET'S GET OUT OF THIS VALLEY! WE'VE MORE CHANCE AGAINST THE GLADIATORS THAN THOSE FLAMES!
KEEP THROWING THESE BURNING STICKS, LENTO. WE'LL TRAP THEM IN THEIR OWN TRAP!

AS LUCULLUS'S MEN RAN FROM THE BLAZING VALLEY, THE GLADIATOR ARMY ATTACKED...
AT THEM, MY GLADIATORS. WE FIGHT FOR CAESAR! FOR ROME!

OLAC GRINNED AT THE YEARNING IN LENTO'S EYES...
GO ON, MY BATTLE-LOVING FRIEND. JOIN THEM. I'LL RIDE ON TO ROME ALONE! ONE MAN MAY STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING THROUGH THAN TWO, ANYWAY.
GOOD LUCK, OLAC! WE'LL JOIN YOU IN ROME!
LET'S HOPE THAT I'M NOT TOO LATE TO SAVE CAESAR!
ALL ROME HAD BECOME A BATTLEFIELD...
ALL LOYAL ROMANS, EVEN CIVILIANS, ARE MAKING A STAND AGAINST LUCULLUS'S MEN. BUT I CANNOT STOP TO HELP THEM.

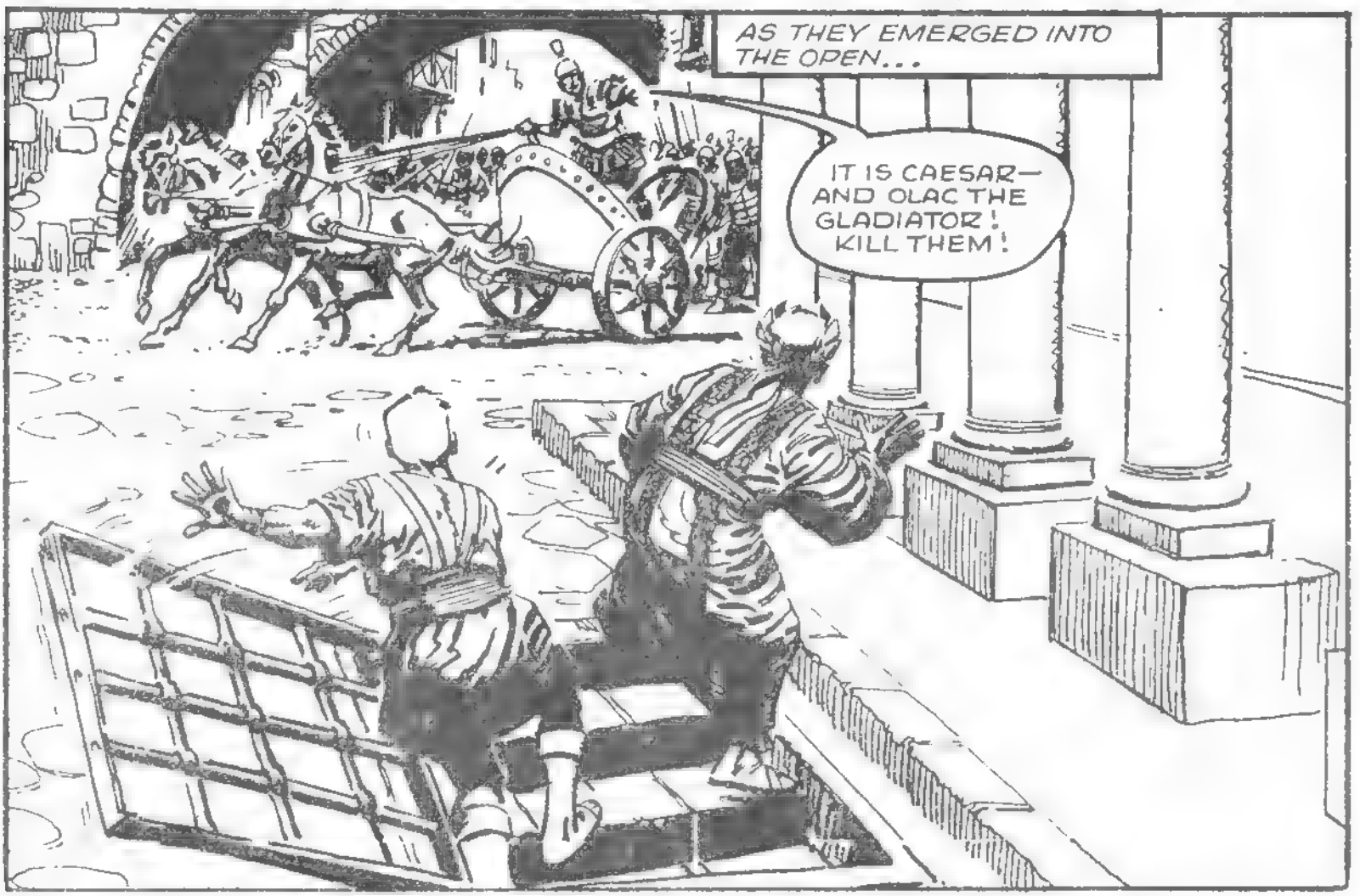
AT CAESAR'S PALACE...
ROME IS MINE NOW, COUSIN CAESAR!
I TRUSTED YOU, LUCULLUS! I WAS A FOOL TO TAKE YOUR WORD AGAINST THAT OF OLAC, WHO TRIED TO WARN ME!
AAAAHHH!
NOW I AM EMPEROR, COUSIN. YOU...
NOT YET LUCULLUS! NOT WHILE CAESAR STILL LIVES!
LUCULLUS PALED AS OLAC STORMED TOWARDS HIM...
LET ME OUT! IT'S OLAC THE GLADIATOR! HE'LL KILL ME!
UUUHHHH!
WE CANNOT ESCAPE THIS WAY, CAESAR!
PERHAPS WE CAN LEAVE BY THE WINDOW!

BUT...
NOT THAT WAY EITHER, CAESAR! THEY'VE SURROUNDED THE PALACE!
SECONDS LATER CAME THE ROAR OF FLAMES...
THEY CANNOT GET OUT! WE'LL BURN THE PALACE DOWN AROUND THEM!

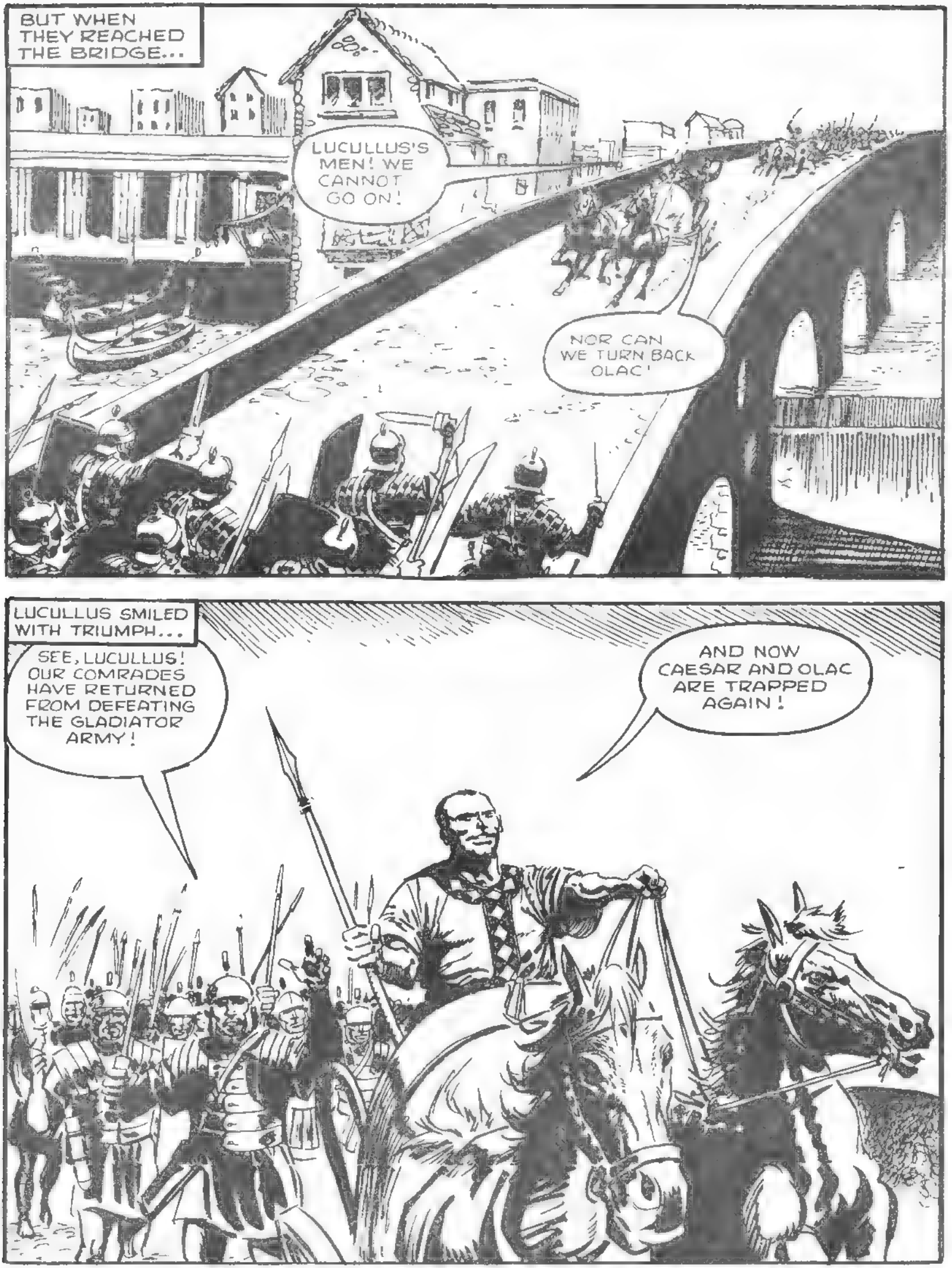
WHILE WE SURROUND THE PALACE THEY CANNOT GET OUT! FOR THEM THE ONLY ESCAPE IS IN DEATH... BY FIRE!
THE END SEEMS NEAR, MY CAESAR. LOOK, THE WALLS ARE BEGINNING TO CAVE IN

LOOK— A SECRET PASSAGE! IT MUST HAVE BEEN BUILT AS AN ESCAPE ROUTE BY A PREVIOUS CAESAR...AND I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT!

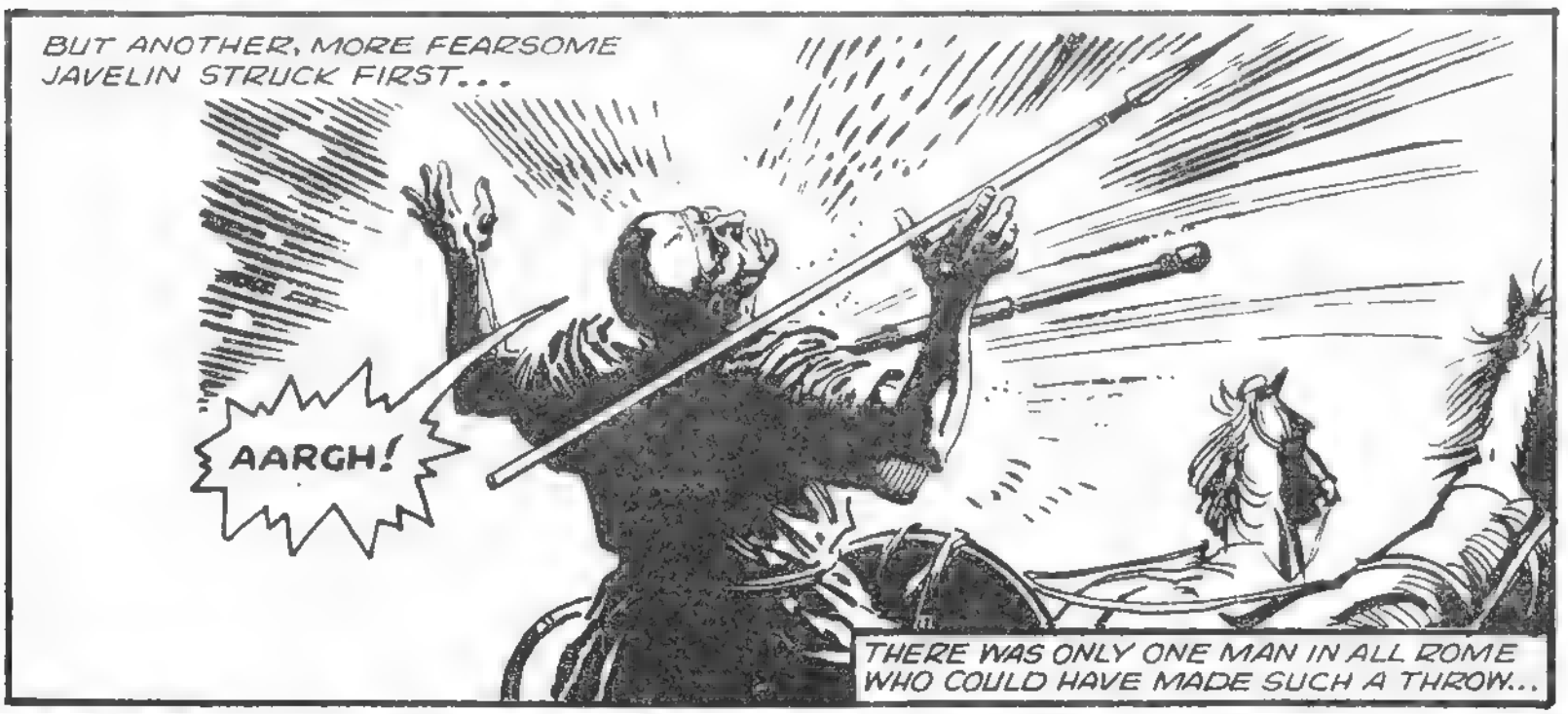
WE ESCAPED JUST IN TIME, OLAC!
WE HAVEN'T ESCAPED **YET**, CAESAR! WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS LEADS TO!

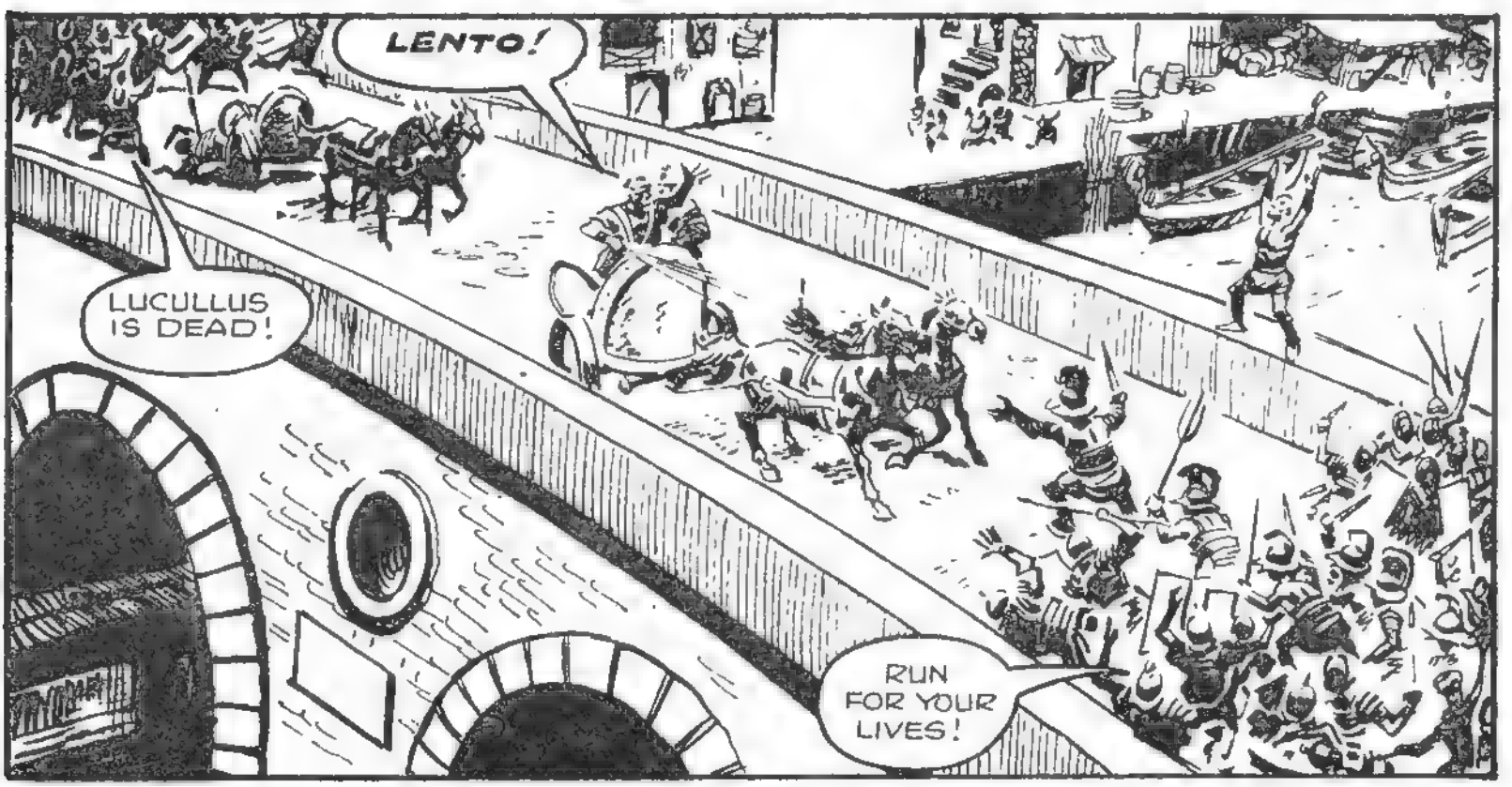

AS THEY EMERGED INTO THE OPEN...
IT IS CAESAR— AND OLAC THE GLADIATOR! KILL THEM!

OLAC LEAPED FORWARD...
GET THE REINS!
IF WE CAN ONLY GET TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, WE MAY YET JOIN UP WITH THE GLADIATORS!


BUT WHEN THEY REACHED THE BRIDGE...
LUCULLUS'S MEN! WE CANNOT GO ON!
NOR CAN WE TURN BACK OLAC!
LUCULLUS SMILED WITH TRIUMPH...
SEE, LUCULLUS! OUR COMRADES HAVE RETURNED FROM DEFEATING THE GLADIATOR ARMY!
AND NOW CAESAR AND OLAC ARE TRAPPED AGAIN!

THIS TIME THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR CAESAR!


BUT ANOTHER, MORE FEARSOME JAVELIN STRUCK FIRST...
AARGH!
THERE WAS ONLY ONE MAN IN ALL ROME WHO COULD HAVE MADE SUCH A THROW...


LENTO!
LUCULLUS IS DEAD!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

ONCE AGAIN, OLAC AND LENTO FOUND THEMSELVES FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE...
THEY ARE BEATEN, LENTO. THE BATTLE FOR ROME IS OVER!
A PITY IN SOME WAYS, OLAC. I WAS JUST BEGINNING TO GET INTO MY STRIDE!

THE FOLLOWING DAY...
I HAVE ORDERED SOME OF MY LEGIONS TO RETURN TO THE CITY SO THAT SUCH AN UPRISING WILL NEVER OCCUR AGAIN. BUT, CITIZENS, LET US NEVER FORGET THAT THE EMPIRE WOULD HAVE FALLEN...HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR MEN LIKE OLAC AND THE GLADIATORS OF ROME!

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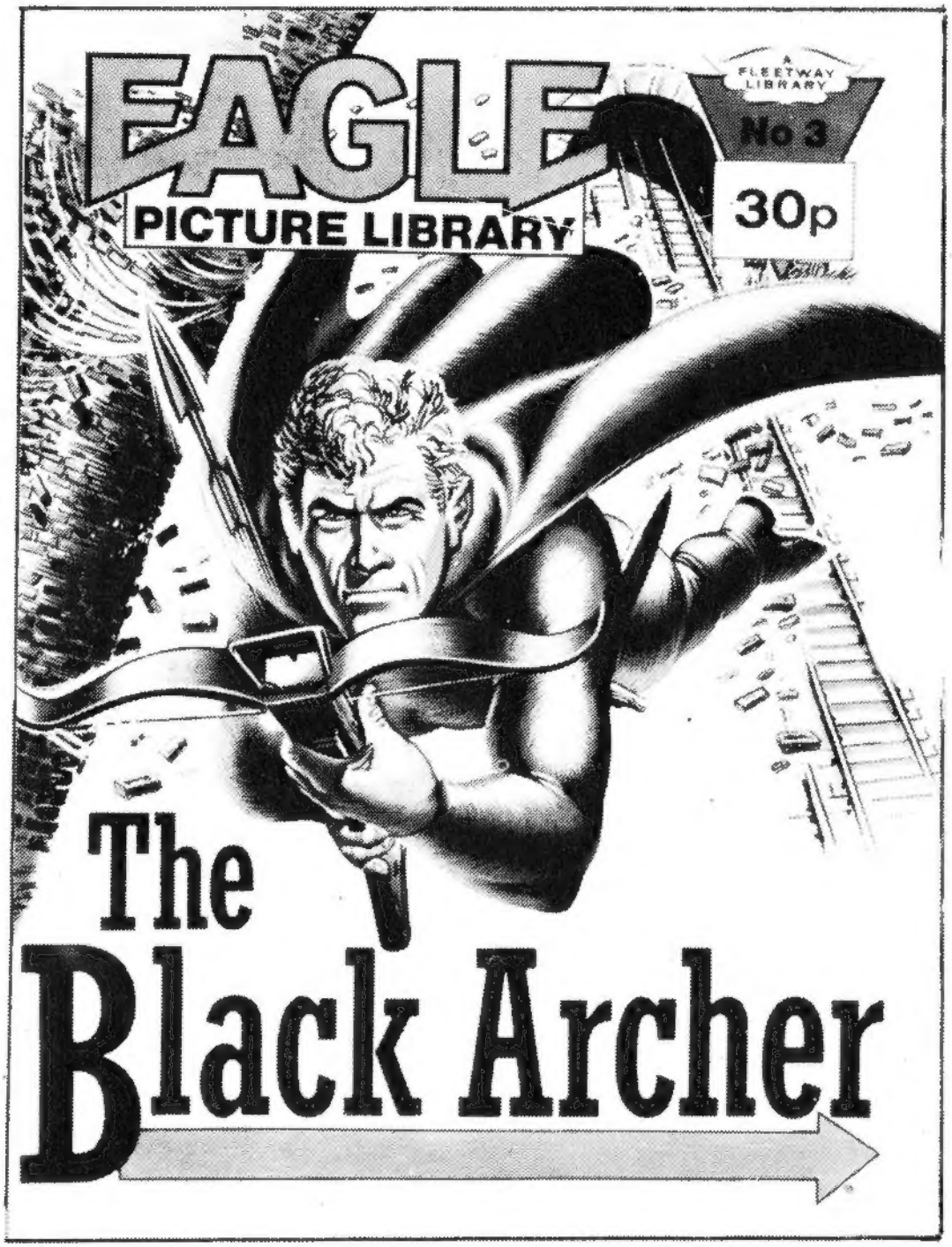

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